



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOVEMBER 17, 2005

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**MEDICARE SERVICE PROVIDER SENTENCED TO 27 MONTHS
IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR SUBMITTING FALSE MEDICARE CLAIMS**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that JOHN JUSTUS OKON, the owner of Medicare-approved medical supply and services companies that operated in Poughkeepsie, New York, and Hartford Connecticut, was sentenced today in White Plains federal court to 27 months in prison for submitting \$620,753.00 in false claims to Medicare.

According to the criminal Information to which OKON pleaded guilty, from April 1, 2000, through March 24, 2005, OKON submitted numerous false and fraudulent claims for nutritional products, and Medicare, in turn, paid OKON on the basis of those false claims. According to statements made at sentencing, OKON provided clients with a non-reimbursable nutritional supplement - one which is not covered by Medicare - and then fraudulently billed Medicare for a more expensive intravenous medical treatment, which is covered by the program, thereby causing Medicare to send him \$620,753.00 to which he was not entitled.

Imposing the sentence in this case, United States District Judge COLLEEN MCMAHON stated that "the public needs to know that the consequences are severe" for this kind of offense. Judge MCMAHON also imposed an order of restitution in the amount of \$620,753.00.

MR. GARCIA praised the investigative efforts of the United States Department of Health and Human Services in this case.

Assistant United States Attorney CYNTHIA K. DUNNE is in charge of the prosecution.

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